## **Regulations and More Regulations**

I attended the City Council meetings in 2005 when the environmental regulations were first updated by the City of Sammamish. I did not know very much about Washington State Law and did not know very much about how to protect the environment. I was mostly concerned about the buffers and setbacks from Lake Sammamish that would keep me from building a house between two existing houses on the lake. I later learned that the buffer and setback regulations from Lake Sammamish should not have been included in the environmental regulations because shorelines in general are excluded as critical areas by RCW 90.58.030 passed by the legislature in 2003.

Now I know a lot more about state law and how to protect the environment.

With respect to state law, in the RCW definition of critical areas, **streams** are not included. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are included; thus streams with fish, designated as habitat conservation areas could be critical areas. The proposed regulations do not designate any habitat conservation areas.

With respect to protecting the environment, the regulations that you will be reviewing again try to solve our pollution problems at the very edge of the critical areas. You will be judging whether a 20-foot buffer is enough or whether a 50-foot buffer is required to protect streams and wetlands. The consultants and staff have documented the pollutants that run off a lot with a house into a critical area. While the list of pollutants is extensive, and perhaps not believable, I think that everyone would agree that the water running off of our city streets is much more contaminated; perhaps 10 of 20 times as contaminated.

However, the rain water falling on our streets; more than 3 feet per year, is diverted into our streams and wetlands. Not only does this water contaminate the streams and wetlands, it washes out spawning grounds for Kokanee and other fish.

ACE hardware cannot be allowed to build on a property because of buffers protecting George Davis Creek, yet the City allows polluted water from 228<sup>th</sup> to flow directly into this creek without any treatment.

Almost everyone in the City contributes to the pollution of our streets. This is a city-wide problem that needs to be solved with storm drainage and filtration systems.

We cannot pretend to protect our environment by passing burdensome regulations on properties near critical areas while allowing pollutants from our streets to run into our streams and wetlands.

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